



Iowa Department of Human Services

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INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1827-MC-FFS

DATE: September 13, 2017

TO: Iowa Medicaid Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Indian Health Services (IHS)

APPLIES TO: Managed Care (MC) and Fee-for-Service (FFS)

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Procedure Code 99188 - Topical Fluoride Varnish

EFFECTIVE: November 1, 2017

Iowa Medicaid allows reimbursement to physicians and nurse practitioners for the application of topical fluoride varnish provided to children up to 36 months of age. When billing, providers should use Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) procedure code 99188 in place of D1206.

The application should continue to be provided in conjunction with an early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment (EPDST) examination, which includes an oral screening.

Separate payment to physicians and nurse practitioners, beyond what is paid for the EPSDT/related exam, is allowed only for the fluoride varnish application, now to be billed CPT code 99188. While broader oral screening is considered to be a part of the EPSDT examination and is considered to be included in reimbursement for the EPSDT/related examination, the additional/separate payment is only allowed for up to four fluoride varnish applications every 12 months.

Parents, legal guardians, or other authorized caregivers of children receiving a topical fluoride application must be informed by the physician, nurse practitioner or their auxiliary staff that this application is not a substitute for comprehensive dental care. Every reasonable effort should be made to refer or facilitate referral of these children to a dentist for comprehensive dental care. Assistance with dentist referrals may be obtained by contacting the local I-Smile Oral Health Coordinator. Individual contact information is available on the Iowa Department of Public Health [I-Smile Dental Home Initiative](http://ismile.idph.iowa.gov/)¹ web page.

Special Note for FQHCs, RHCs and HIS: FQHCs, RHCs and IHS should still bill the encounter code T1015 on line 1 of the claim. CPT code 99188, along with procedure codes for any other distinct services rendered during that same encounter, would be billed on a subsequent claim line(s), to describe the services rendered during the encounter. This billing protocol has been in place for FQHCs and RHCs for many years."

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, or by email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.

¹ <http://ismile.idph.iowa.gov/>